Geospace Dynamics Constellation
Frequently Asked Questions

Categories of Questions

Science (S)
Technology (T)
Management and Schedule (M)
Cost (C)
Proposal Evaluation (E)
Proposal Submission (P)
Other (O)

Change Log		
Rev.	**Date**	**Description of Changes**
01	2/1/21	Added S-1, S-2, S-3, T-1, T-2, T-3, E-1, P-1

Science

S-1. The Community Announcement (Acquisition Process, posted 1/12/21) lists the following as the Objectives that must be addressed 1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.3, and/or 2.6 and refers the reader to Chapter 2, STDT report. The GDC STDT Final Report presents a slightly differently prioritization. Does the Community Announcement supersede the STDT report's prioritization?

Yes, the Community Announcement and subsequent documents supersede the GDC STDT Final Report. The Community Announcement directed the reader to the report for information on the scientific content of the Objectives, but the Announcement's list of Objectives is the one that investigations must respond to.

S-2. Is there a minimum number of GDC Science Objectives that an investigation must address?

There is not a minimum number of GDC Science Objectives that a single investigation is required to address.

S-3. The Community Announcement (Acquisition Process, posted 1/12/21) states "Investigations must include a single instrument type and may not include an instrument suite. NASA will follow community standards for the identification of instrument suites, and proposals will need to convincingly show adherence to this requirement (as appropriate and necessary for each proposal)". What distinguishes a single instrument from a suite?

The difference between a single instrument and a suite is governed by community standards, and the exact demarcation between the two may be different for different instrument systems. For the GDC solicitation, a single instrument is one that is composed of one of the following:

a) A single sensor
b) Multiple sensors that are not physically separable
c) Multiple sensors that have interdependencies for a significant fraction of the GDC physical parameters to be measured by the instrument system

Technology

T-1. Is an investigation responsible for providing the boom for their instrument's deployment on the spacecraft? What is the maximum boom length that can be proposed?

No, investigations are not responsible for providing any boom required for their instrument's deployment on the spacecraft; further, investigations may not propose assuming a boom length longer than 1.2m (as defined in the *Proposal Information* Package, which can be found in the Program Library).

- Note: There was a typographical error in the original Community Announcement (Acquisition Process, posted 1/12/21), under *Technology/Deployables*, that stated that the planned boom length was 1.5m. The correct length is 1.2m, and has been fixed in the announcement.

T-2. May an investigation include a deployable that is not a boom?

Yes, an investigation can include a non-boom deployable that is inherent to the function of the instrument. Investigations are responsible for the delivery of all such deployables.

T-3. The Community Announcement (Acquisition Process, posted 1/12/21) states that investigations should propose to deliver six instrument flight units (twelve for potential additional observatory options). Does that imply that the GDC satellites will be identical in terms of science payloads? Is there a possibility that a proposal is selected but will only be asked to supply instruments for a subset of the constellation?

Yes, NASA intends to implement GDC as six identical observatories. NASA does not intend to solicit or select investigations to deliver instruments for a subset of the observatories.

Management and Schedule

No questions at this time.

Cost

No questions at this time.

Proposal Evaluation

E-1. The Community Announcement (Acquisition Process, posted 1/12/21) states "Investigations must include a single instrument type and may not include an instrument suite. NASA will follow community standards for the identification of instrument suites, and proposals will need to convincingly show adherence to this requirement (as appropriate and necessary for each proposal)". What is the process for determining whether an instrument system is a single instrument or a suite?

A proposed investigation's adherence to this requirement will be assessed at multiple points in the proposal evaluation and selection process. This assessment will be based on the proposed design, any arguments offered by the proposal, and community standards.

- Notice of Intent (NOI) submissions
  - NASA will review NOIs for a description of the instrument system. Any proposer whose NOI appears to describe an instrument suite will receive a notification from NASA.
    - A notification would not prevent a proposer from submitting a full proposal.
    - The lack of a notification would not constitute an affirmation that the proposed instrument system is not a suite.
  - NOI submitters that decide to split their instrument system to be submitted with multiple investigations (i.e. multiple proposals) may do so. The initial single NOI will be taken by NASA to meet any NOI requirement for all resulting proposals.
- Full proposal submissions
  - NASA reserves the right to return without review any proposals that include instrument suites.
- Proposal evaluation process
  - All evaluation findings regarding an instrument system being an instrument suite will be communicated to the proposer during the Preliminary Major Weaknesses process. Proposers will have the opportunity to respond to any such findings.
- Selection process
  - Affirmation of proposals adherence to the prohibition on instrument suites will be part of the process that begins with the Categorization Committee and ends with the Selection Decision.

Proposal Submission

P-1. Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a single institution?

No, NASA does not intend to limit the number of proposals a single institution may submit.

Other

No questions at this time.